

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** November 22, 1999

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on November 12, 1999

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Francis X. Lyons  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Final Inspection, Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (Indianapolis Plant) Superfund Site, Indianapolis, Indiana**

On November 5, 1999, Dion Novak conducted a final inspection at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (Indianapolis Plant) Superfund Site, Indianapolis, Indiana. This final inspection covered the soil cover for operable unit 3 and the concrete cover and soil vapor extraction system construction for operable unit 4.

The significance of this inspection is that all remedial construction at the site is now complete. This site was one of the original sites listed on the National Priority List and, after five operable units and many years of study and remediation, it is now complete and eligible for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA's) construction completion list.

Contact: Dion Novak (312-886-4737)

**Administrative Complaint Settled, GATX Terminals Corporation, Argo, Illinois**

On November 9, 1999, U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order to resolve the Administrative Complaint filed against GATX Terminals Corporation in Argo, Illinois. The Complaint was filed on June 2, 1999, with alleged violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) for failure to immediately notify the National Response Commission (NRC), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee of a 56,631 pound release of vinyl acetate (a CERCLA hazardous chemical with a reportable quantity of 5,000 pounds) that occurred on October 29, 1996, and for failure to immediately notify the NRC of an 11,630 pound release of styrene (a CERCLA hazardous chemical with a reportable quantity of 1,000 pounds) that occurred on February 10, 1999. The proposed penalty in the Complaint was \$78,258.

As part of the settlement, GATX Terminals Corporation has agreed to pay a cash penalty of \$10,872.53 (\$4,349 to Superfund and \$6,523.53 to the General Treasury) and to perform a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP will require the Respondent to develop and install a computer-based communication system at all of their facilities to expedite the reporting of any future incidents or accidents. GATX Terminals Corporation will have 30 days to pay the cash penalty and 4 months to develop and install the computer system.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Amended Unilateral Administrative Order, Woodstock Municipal Landfill Superfund Site, Woodstock, Illinois**

On November 3, 1999, the unilateral administrative order (UAO) issued to the City of Woodstock and AlliedSignal on September 3, 1994, was amended to reflect the changes in the remedial action at the Woodstock Municipal Landfill Superfund site in Woodstock, Illinois, as required by a Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment signed on July 15, 1998.

The \$6-million cleanup has two phases. The current phase, which runs through November 1999, will prepare the site for construction of a landfill cap in the Spring of 2000. This work includes: clearing the site of trees and vegetation; excavating contaminated wetland sediments and placing them

onsite; sifting onsite borrow soils to eliminate stones so that the soil can be used as landfill cover; and, closing onsite monitoring wells that are no longer needed. The second phase will run through the Year 2000 construction season and will include: regrading and contouring the site; constructing the landfill's geomembrane, drainage, and topsoil layers, as well as installing a landfill gas venting system; installing a surface-water and sedimentation control system; wetlands restoration in areas excavated during Phase I; and, comprehensive monitoring and institutional controls on future uses of the site.

Contacts: John O'Grady (312-886-1477)  
Tom Williams (312-886-0814)

**Amended Unilateral Administrative Orders, Tri-County Landfill Company/Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. Superfund Site, South Elgin, Illinois**

On September 24, 1998, a unilateral administrative order (UAO) for remedial action (RA) was issued to Waste Management of Illinois (WMI) and Tri-County Landfill Company on the Tri-County Landfill Co./Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. Superfund site (also called the Tri-County/Elgin Landfills site) near South Elgin, Illinois. A second UAO was issued to Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) on November 19, 1998, and the effective dates of the two UAOs were synchronized. On November 3, 1999, the U.S. EPA issued amended UAOs to WMI and BFI to separate the RA responsibilities. The UAOs issued on November 3, 1999, now limit BFI's responsibility for RA activities to the Elgin Landfill portion of the site only, and WMI's responsibility for RA activities to the Tri-County Landfill portion of the site, including the Elgin-Wayne property owned by WMI, and on which WMI operates a waste transfer station.

Contacts: John O'Grady (312-886-1477)  
Constandina Dalianis (312-353-1027)

**Administrative Complaint Filed, B.P. Exploration & Oil, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio**

On November 12, 1999, U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against B.P. Exploration & Oil, Inc., headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. The Complaint alleges that for calendar

years 1994-1996, B.P. Exploration & Oil, Inc., failed to submit the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form to the State Emergency Response Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the local fire department by the March 1 deadline. The Respondent failed to do the required act at 23 of the 68 bulk plants located throughout Ohio. The proposed penalty in the Complaint is \$295,612.50. The Respondent will have 30 days to file an answer to the Complaint.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Administrative Complaint Filed, Pioneer Metal Finishing Corporation, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

On November 9, 1999, U.S. EPA, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, issued a complaint against Pioneer Metal Finishing Corporation ("Pioneer") in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Complaint alleges that Pioneer, failed to timely submit, to the State Emergency Response Commission and fire department, a Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form (Tier II) for the 1995, 1996, and 1997 calendar years, due annually on March 1 of each year for the previous year's storage information. The U.S. EPA discovered the storage of 5 hazardous chemicals, including two extremely hazardous substances (nitric acid, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, phosphoric acid, and fuel oil) above the reporting threshold, during an inspection at the facility on April 30, 1998.

The facility came into compliance immediately after the inspection, however, this was 2 years and 60 days after required to do so for the 1995 reporting year; 1 year and 60 days after required to do so for the 1996 reporting year; and 60 days after required to do so for the 1997 reporting year. U.S. EPA is proposing a \$91,000 penalty (including 59 days of multi-day penalties) for the 124 reporting violations. Pioneer is considered a small business under Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) and therefore received a pre-filing notice. Pioneer has 30 days to answer the Complaint.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

**Meeting, Hennepin County Environmental Protection Division and Taxpayer Services Department, Doc's Auto Site, Hennepin**

**County, Minneapolis**

On November 4, 1999, Joe Dufficy and Brooke Furio met with Hennepin County officials from the Environmental Protection Division and Taxpayer Services Department. The discussion focused on redevelopment issues of the Doc's Auto site. U.S. EPA, Region 5 recently conducted a removal action on the site. Metro Transit, owners of an adjacent piece of property would like to purchase the property and redevelop it into a public transit communications center. Metro Transit is a division of the Metropolitan Council. The property has been tax forfeited since July of 1995, and is currently owned by the State of Minnesota. The Doc's Auto site is located in the Basset Creek Valley Redevelopment Area. The Doc's Auto site is one of the 14 brownfields properties that the Basset Creek Valley community selected for redevelopment.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS****Field Work, Brownfields Project, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

On November 8, 1999, field work began in the Menomonee River Valley with commencement of drilling work to install monitoring wells. The work on this brownfields pilot site assessment is being performed over the next several weeks by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) under an Interagency Agreement (IAG) with U.S. EPA. Water levels will be gathered from dozens of wells in the later part of the month, and that data will be used for groundwater modeling the USGS is doing for the City under the same IAG. The well installation ran into a snag on day two when a 50-by-40-foot reinforced concrete crane foundation was encountered deep below the surface. USGS and the City's consultant will explore alternative data points or alternative drilling equipment to that presently being used.

Contact: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)

**Geophysical Surveys, Region 5 Indian Reservations, Wisconsin and Minnesota**

At the request of the Underground Storage Tank Program, the

Field Services Section conducted geophysical surveys at four Indian Reservations in Region 5 to locate abandoned underground storage tanks (USTs). The reservations included the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Red Lake, Minnesota; Lac du Flambeau Reservation, Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin; Fond du Lac Reservation, Cloquet, Minnesota; and, Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation, Hayward, Wisconsin. A total of sixteen abandoned gasoline stations were surveyed using a Geonics High-Sensitivity Metal Detector (EM-61) for possible USTs. A total of eleven possible USTs were located at seven of the sites. The location of the possible USTs were given to the tribal authorities for possible excavation and removal.

Contact: Mark Vendl (312-886-0405)

**Meeting, City of Chicago, Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, Chicago, Illinois**

On November 8, 1999, Brooke Furio held a meeting with the City of Chicago to begin work on the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (\$500,000). The City recently negotiated a workplan and signed a Cooperative Agreement with U.S. EPA, Region 5. A team made up of City of Chicago employees, Rachel Freeman (Housing and Urban Development Community Builder), Matt Didier (Brownfields Showcase Inter-Governmental Personnel Action), and Brooke Furio will begin working on the legal aspects of a loan document.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

**Meeting, Hennepin County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hennepin County, Minneapolis**

On November 4, 1999, Joe Dufficy and Brooke Furio met with staff from Hennepin County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff from the Saint Paul District to discuss work that is to be done in the Basset Creek Valley Area. U.S. EPA recently provided funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help Hennepin County with the redevelopment of the Basset Creek Valley. The Basset Creek Valley is an area adjacent to and northwest of downtown Minneapolis which has the lowest income and the highest crime rates in the State.

The County and City have been working with the community for years to redevelop the area. A master plan for the

redevelopment will be released next month. The redevelopment plan focuses on fourteen sites, including: Doc's Auto, Warden Oil, and Chemical Marketing Corporation. U.S. EPA already funds the County through the Brownfields Pilot Programs.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Compliance Inspections (Plating Sector), Minnesota**

On November 9 and 10, 1999, George Rancich and William Sandstrom, of Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), conducted three Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspections in Minnesota. The three facilities were among those which had not responded to two compliance assistance mailings by the Minnesota State Emergency Response Commission. These State mailings and follow-up by U.S. EPA are part of a joint State/U.S. EPA Sector Initiative involving Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC) Codes 3471 (plating and polishing) and 3479 (metal coating and coloring).

The facilities inspected were Hard Anodize, Inc., Edina, Minnesota; Micro-Parts, Inc., Eagan, Minnesota; and, Bo Decor Metal Finishing, Inc., Eagan, Minnesota. Results of the inspections will be documented in reports to OCEPP enforcement personnel.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)  
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

**Meeting, Commissioner Stenglein, Hennepin County, Minneapolis**

On November 5, 1999, Brooke Furio along with Catherine Geisen-Kisch of Hennepin County met with Commissioner Mark Stenglein of the Second District, which includes the City of Minneapolis. The meeting was held to discuss the redevelopment plans of the Basset Creek Valley Area. The discussion focused on strategies to gain control of the targeted properties and begin site assessments. Commissioner Stenglein stated that he felt that the County, not Minneapolis Community Development Agency was best positioned to begin the work.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Post Construction Completion Meetings, Bloomington, Illinois**

From November 2-4, 1999, the Post Construction Completion (PCC) coordinators met with representatives from U.S. EPA's Technology Innovation Office (TIO) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to discuss ways to interact to further the goals of the PCC program. TIO and the USACE have pledged their support for PCC initiatives and will work with the coordinators on PCC work.

PCC coordinators and TIO will be working on optimization strategies for PCC sites with the intent that guidance be developed to assist the PCC Remedial Project Manager in streamlining their remedial systems, where appropriate. The PCC teams will be developing this guidance, with assistance from the USACE and other entities, as appropriate.

Contacts: Dion Novak (312-886-4737)  
Steve Padovani (312-353-6755)  
Terry Roundtree (312-353-3236)

### **Proviso East High School Career Fair, Maywood, Illinois**

On November 9, 1999, Brownfields Intern Janeen Said accompanied Ethel Crisp to the Proviso East High School Career Fair to talk to students about internships and job opportunities with U.S. EPA. They discussed the importance of keeping the environment clean and safe and for getting involved in their own community's efforts. Ms. Crisp and Ms. Said were also able to speak to the school's Principal about putting together a recycling program and possibly finding funds for the school to implement the program. The two will follow-up with the Principal to offer any assistance they can to help get the program on its way.

Contacts: Janeen Said (312-886-7185)  
Ethel Crisp (312-353-1442)

### **Brownfields Meeting, Minnesota Environmental Initiative**

On November 4, 1999, Brooke Furio and Joe Dufficy attended the first in a series of meetings hosted by the not-for-profit



Minnesota Environmental Initiative. The goal of this discussion group is two-fold. The first goal is to assess the current state of brownfields redevelopment in Minnesota. The second goal is to figure out how to change policy and add incentives to better the current situation. More meetings will be scheduled in the near future to continue the discussion. The meeting was attended by environmental consultants, private business owners, and regulatory agency staff.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

**Clean Air/Brownfields Partnership Pilots National Meeting,  
Baltimore, Maryland**

On November 4, 1999, the Clean Air/Brownfields Partnership Pilots from the Cities of Chicago, Dallas, and Baltimore met in Baltimore, Maryland for a third national meeting. The goal of the pilot program is to examine brownfield redevelopments in urban areas that do not meet the Federal Clean Air Act ambient standards. Specifically, air modeling for in-fill versus greenfield development, industrial air permitting, and clean electric utilities are being examined as part of this pilot process. The U.S. Conference is convening the meetings and will be compiling a "Best Practices" manual for other communities to use.

Contact: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Tim Fields (OSWER)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers